

B I R D C A L E N D A R – 1928 – 24th Y E A R

B U L L E T I N NO. 2 – April 1 – 30th

By Professor D.H. Hulme

The generally cold and changeable weather of April delayed bird migration quite perceptibly this year. The migrants of the present Bulletin were observed, in the main, after the first ten days of the month. The number of birds observed, however, from the 1st to the 30th is about as large as usual, thanks to the effective observation of Mr. Valentine and his Class in Biology 10.

Nothing much of unusual interest has transpired during the month, few if any “rare” spring migrants were seen in and around Cleveland. It has been interesting to see and hear more Flickers in Wade Park this spring than have been observed by the writer in the last fifteen or twenty years, in spite of the rapid increase of Starlings during the last four or five years. The Flickers do not seem to be disturbed in the least by the Starlings, nor do the latter appear to pay any attention to their larger and persistent competitors for the best tree-holes for nesting purposes. The Red-headed Woodpeckers are in Wade Park as usual. Only the Bluebirds seem to come to Wade and Rockefeller Parks in much smaller numbers than they came a few years ago. But with the gradual destruction of all the apple trees and other favorite nesting trees and places of the charming Bluebirds, it is no wonder that they are becoming more and more scarce in the city parks. This fact, and not the presence of English Sparrows and Starling, accounts mainly for the scarcity of Bluebirds in the Cleveland parks. Moreover, the park authorities have been (perhaps unintentionally) and still are, doing their best (or worst) to make it impossible for any other birds than English Sparrows and Starlings to live in our parks. Virtually all the undergrowth (small bushes, briar patches, and the like) which the numerous ground birds, whether migrants or resident, demand by instinct, for their hiding places and protection have been stripped from the parks during the last five or six years; and the work of beautifying (?) the parks at the expense of the birds is still going on apace. The city foresters are, moreover, so enthusiastic and energetic in cutting down dead-topped trees, that the time is soon coming when there will be no tree-holes in our parks where a Flicker or a Red-headed (or any other kind of) Woodpecker will have a place to stick its head, or a dead limb to thump for its natural and necessary food. In other words, human beings in authoritative places are more responsible for the gradual decrease in the number of familiar and favorite birds – which has so frequently been spoken and written about in recent years – than all the Starlings and English Sparrows that now “infest” the parks of Cleveland, and than ten times as many more of these greatly over-scandalized members of our resident bird family would be! I something or somebody could only get the directors, foresters, and care-takers of the Cleveland parks as much interested in establishing “bird-paradises” in the parks as the are in “beautifying” them, how truly beautiful all these parks would become in the course of a few years.

The following item from the Plain Dealer of April 28th is interesting and self-explanatory:

“Workmen in the cellar of the main heating plant at Case School of Applied Sciences found an uninvited and unhappy stranger in their midst yesterday.

A small Virginia rail, covered with coal dust, fluttered feebly away from them.

The rail was very unhappy, indeed. Used to a life in the marshes, where it could plunge its long bill in the soft ooze in search of delectable bits of grub life, it was very puzzled at the strange world into which it had fallen.

The rail showed its good intentions by bathing in the pan of water set out by Case instructors, and presently accepted earthworms from their fingers.

No one at Case was able to identify the bird, and when the bath disclosed interesting marking, Dr. Frank Comstock, professor of descriptive geometry, sent for Dr. Francis Herrick, bird specialist of Western Reserve University.

Dr. Herrick immediately recognized it as a Virginia rail, which is common enough in Ohio, but unusual within the city limits.

The rail seemed to be slightly injured from its fall down the ventilator shaft and was being allowed the freedom of the boiler room last night. It will be set free when it regains its strength.

Every bird in the following list was first observed some day in April:

41. Barn Swallow; April 15, N.C. Furtos, Mentor Marsh; May 12, Willoughby, Burroughs Club (several) Mentor Marsh.
42. Black Duck; April 18, Professors Herrick and Visscher, (few), Sandusky River and Marshes near Fremont, Ohio.
43. Blue Goose (small flock); April 25, N.C. Furtos, Mentor Marsh.
44. Blue-winged Teal; April 18, N.C. Furtos, Mentor Marsh; April 28, Mr. Valentine, Shaker Lakes.
45. Bonaparte's Gull; April 18, N.C. Furtos, Mentor Marsh; May 12, Willoughby Burroughs Club, Mentor Marsh.
46. Brown Thrasher; April 25, Miss Barrow, Wade Park; May 1-2, same place, and frequently since.
47. Buffle-head Duck; April 12, N.C. Furtos, Mentor Marsh; April 24, Donald Hulme, same place.
48. Catbird; April 25, N.C. Furtos, Mentor Marsh; May 5 Shaker Lakes; May 12, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
49. Cedar Waxwing (several); April 9, Miss M. Warner, lower Chagrin Valley; April 12, Mr. Valentine and the Biology 10 class (5) Shaker Lakes.
50. Coot; April 18, N.C. Furtos, Mentor Marsh.
51. Great Blue Heron; April 18, Professors Herrick and Visscher (several) Sandusky River and Marshes; April 22, Green Springs; May 12, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
52. Greater Scaup Duck (several); April 11, N.C. Furtos, Mentor Marsh; April 12, Mr. Valentine and class (4), Shaker Lakes; April 19, Mr. Valentine (several) Shaker Lakes; April 28, same observer (16), same place.
53. Horned Grebe; April 15, N.C. Furtos, Mentor Marsh.
54. Horned Lark; April 3, Professor Visscher, near Vermilion.
55. House Wren; April 22, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch; May 4, Wade Park; May 5, Miss M. Warner, lower Chagrin Valley; May 12, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
56. Lesser Scaup Duck; April 28, Mr. Valentine, Shaker Lakes.

57. Louisiana Waterthrush; April 19, Mr. Valentine, Shaker Lakes; May 12, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
58. Mallard Duck; April 18, Professors Herrick and Visscher, Sandusky, (several); Green Springs, April 21-22.
59. Marsh Hawk; April 18, Professors Herrick and Visscher (several) "a pair near Fremont soaring and tumbling; we watched the aerial evolutions of one of these birds, probably the male, for over five minutes; it would rise high and then fall almost straight downward to the ground, turning over several times in the descent; then quickly rising and repeating the performance. This behavior is usually attributed to the nesting season – now over a month away"; April 24, Donald Hulme, Mentor Marsh; May 12, (2), B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
60. Migrant Shrike; April 15, N.C. Furtos, Mentor Marsh.
61. Myrtle Warbler; April 19, Mr. Valentine, Shaker Lakes; April 21, same observer, Rockefeller estate, East Cleveland; April 22, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch; same date, Green Springs; April 28, Mr. Valentine, Shaker Lakes; May 12, B.N.C. (several), Mentor Marsh.
62. Nighthawk; March 30, Miss Etzensperger, near Willoughby.
63. Pied-billed Grebe; April 15, Mr. Valentine, Carnegie pond, Shaker Heights; April 28, same observer, Shaker Lakes.
64. Pintail Duck; April 18, Professors Herrick and Visscher, Sandusky River and Marshes, one flock of 50, and several smaller flocks, near Fremont.
65. Purple Martin; April 18, Professors Herrick and Visscher, Vermilion; April 19, Professor Herrick (several), Noble Road, April 20, Donald Hulme, Cleveland Heights; April 24, same observer (several), Mentor Marsh; May 12, B.N.C. (many), Mentor Headlands and John Sherwin farm.
66. Red-bellied Woodpecker; April 22 (2), Green Springs.
67. Red-breasted Merganser (2); April 18, N.C. Furtos, Mentor Marsh; May 12, B.N.C. (3), Mentor Marsh.
68. Red-headed Woodpecker; April 22, Green Springs; May 8-10 (several) Wade Park, May 12, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
69. Ring-necked Pheasant; April 8, Professor Finfrock, N. Woodland Road; April 21, Green Springs.
70. Ruby-crowned Kinglet; April 12, Mr. Valentine and class (4), Shaker Lakes; April 14, Mr. Valentine (2), Lake View; April 19, same observer (2), Shaker Lakes; April 22, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch; April 25, Miss Barrow, Wade Park; April 27, Lake View.
71. Ruddy Duck; April 18, N.C. Furtos, Mentor Marsh.
72. Rusty Blackbird; April 7, Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road, Cleveland Heights.
73. Savannah Sparrow; April 19, Mr. Valentine, Shaker Lakes.
74. Short-eared Owl; April 12, L. Tarlez and C.L. Feiler, Shaker Lakes.
75. Swamp Sparrow; April 12, Mr. Valentine and class, Shaker Lakes; April 21, Green Springs; April 28, Mr. Valentine (2), Shaker Lakes; May 12, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.

76. Tree Swallow; April 25, N.C. Furtos (several) Mentor Marsh; April 29, Professor Finfrock (several) Gates Mill; May 12, B.N.C. (several), Mentor Marsh and Sherwin Farm.
77. Turkey Buzzard; April 9, Miss M. Warner, lower Chagrin Valley.
78. Upland Plover; April 18, Professors Herrick and Visscher, several heard calling in afternoon about 4 miles from Vermilion.
79. Veery; April 3, Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road; April 22, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch; May 4, Wade Park; May 12, B.N.C., Mentor Marsh.
80. Vesper Sparrow; April 16, (several), Wade Park; April 19, Mr. Valentine (19-20), Shaker Lakes; April 29, Professor Finfrock, Gates Mill; May 12, B.N.C. (several) Mentor Marsh.
81. Virginia Rail; April 8, one identified by Professor Herrick that had fallen into cellar of heating plant of Case School.
82. White-throated Sparrow; April 20 (2-3) and frequently during the following 2 weeks, Wade Park; April 22, Dean Bailey, Lake View Gulch; May 12, B.N.C. (several), Mentor Marsh.
83. Winter Wren; April 12, Mr. Valentine and class, Shaker Lakes; April 21, Green Springs.
84. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; April 7, Professor Finfrock, 3186 Oak Road, Cleveland Heights; April 10 (2) Wade Park; April 12, Mr. Valentine and class, Shaker Lakes; April 14, Mr. Valentine (7), Lake View Gulch; April 18, Mr. Valentine, Wade Park; April 19, same observer, Shaker Lakes.